



Position Statement: Telephonic Nursing

Telenursing involves nursing practice via electronic means such as telephone, satellite, or computer. Examples of telenursing practice may include teaching, consulting, triaging, advising or providing direct services, to name but a few. All of these actions constitute the practice of nursing, even when there is no face-to-face or physical contact with a person or patient. If a job description requires a person to hold a valid nursing license, then the job duties therein involve the practice of nursing. This means a nurse must comply with the Georgia Nurse Practice Act and Board Rules in the exercise of his/her practice of nursing. Rule 410-11-.01 Standards of Registered Professional Nursing Practice, is the primary rule applied to nursing practice in any setting. This rule and additional documents that provide guidance for nurse's on determining their individual scope of practice are located under "Laws, Policies and Rules" of the BON web page. Telenursing may also involve practicing nursing across state lines. For example:

- A nurse working in an emergency hotline center in Virginia may provide advice to clients in Georgia;
- A nursing faculty professor from Arizona may teach nurses enrolled in a graduate (Master's Degree) program in Georgia via the internet; or
- An RN working for an insurance company in New York may assess ongoing home healthcare needs with a man in Georgia relating to injuries the man sustained in an accident 6 weeks ago.

If a nurse from another state provides nursing to a resident of Georgia, except as excluded in the Nursing Practice Act, O.C.G.A. §43-26-12, the nurse must hold a valid Georgia nursing license in order to practice nursing in the State of Georgia and/or with Georgia residents.